

MINUTES
South Fork Holston River IP
1st Public Meeting

WHEN: November 10, 2022; 6:00-7:00pm

WHERE: Damascus Public Library, Damascus, VA

ATTENDEES:

- Katy Treash, Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
- Travis Holt, Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
- Wayne Turley, Holston River Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
- Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
 - Stephanie Kreps – NPS Coordinator
 - David Nichols- TMDL Coordinator
 - Martha Chapman – Water Monitoring and Assessment Scientist
 - Kelly Miller- Stormwater & Watershed Planning Manager

Meeting purpose: To kick start the development of a cleanup plan for the South Fork Holston River Watershed in Washington and Smyth Counties; Share information; Engage the public in this process with their participation.

Meeting goal: Answer questions and identify stakeholders to help develop the Clean Up Plan (also known as an Implementation Plan (IP)).

Stephanie Kreps (DEQ) gave a brief introduction of the meeting purpose, gave an overview of Virginia's water quality process, South Fork Holston River's TMDL (approved in 2016), what a Clean Up Plan is/is not and next steps/timeline to complete the plan.

A 30 day public comment period started November 10, 2022 until December 12, 2022, to comment on the development of the Clean Up Plan.

There will be at least one (maybe two) Working Group meetings, starting in January 2023 to go into more detail of the local needs/interests, types of practices, potential partners and funding sources so that a draft plan can be developed by March/April 2023. The final public meeting (with the draft plan) is scheduled for April 2023. It is anticipated that the plan will be approved by EPA in June/July 2023.